
Placement Testing

The purpose of placement testing is to enhance student success in college. Placement test scores are used to place students in the most appropriate level for success. All students with less than 12 academic credit hours must take the English, math, and reading placement tests or have proof of acceptable ACT scores.

If a student has taken college Math, college English or 12 academic credit hours with a grade of C or better, prior to enrolling at LCC, he or she must provide an official college transcript or college grade report of previous courses. Placement in appropriate courses will be determined during the enrollment process.

College students who apply for Pell Grants and who will be taking Writing Essentials or Pre-Comp, Reading Essentials or College Reading, Foundations of Math, Beginning Algebra, or any other developmental course must have taken the appropriate placement test in order to qualify for the grant funds.

Students may arrange to take a placement test by calling the LCC Student Success Center at (620) 421-6700, extension 1182, 1142, or 1153.

Placement Testing for English Courses

Score	Placement in
COMPASS writing score of 0-51 OR ACT writing score of 0-13	Writing Essentials
COMPASS writing score of 52-69 OR ACT writing score of 14-17	Pre-Comp
COMPASS writing score of 70 or higher OR ACT writing score of 18 and above	English Composition I

1. Students who have taken the COMPASS Writing test twice and score between 49 and 51 can write an essay to try to get into Pre-Comp.
2. Students who have taken the COMPASS Writing test twice and score between 67 and 69 can write an essay to try to get into English Composition I.
3. Students can only go up one level by writing the essay.

Procedure for writing the essay:

- A. The essay will be written in the Student Success Center (SSC).

- B. The students will be given a list of topics chosen by the English faculty.
- C. The student will fill out a form listing his or her name, ID number, address, and phone number.
- D. The student will receive written instructions for writing the essay, paper, and pen.
- E. Once it is completed, the essay and form will be sent to the English Department. At least two people will read the essay and decide, independently, whether or not the student should be admitted into the higher course. If there is a disagreement, a third faculty member will read the essay to make the determination.
- F. Once the decision has been made, the essay and decision are returned to the Student Success Center.
- G. One of the SSC staff, usually the English Specialist, will contact the student regarding which course to enroll in. The English Specialist will also inform Admissions of the determination.
- H. The grading of the essay usually takes no more than 24 to 48 hours, so the student will be able to enroll in a timely manner.

Placement Testing for Mathematics Courses

A student is placed into a math course by using one of three methods: ACT scores, COMPASS placement test scores, or passing the prerequisite course(s). There is no placement in math for ACT scores of less than 20. Students with less than 20 in mathematics on the ACT will be required to take the COMPASS test. The following tables illustrate the cut off points for placing into math courses at LCC.

Placement for First Time Enrollees - ACT Placement

ACT Math Score	Supporting High School Course & Grade	Placement Recommendation
1-13	N/A	Foundations of Math
14-16	N/A	Beginning Algebra <i>or</i> Applied Math
17-19	N/A	Intermediate Algebra
20 or Higher	N/A	College Algebra <i>or</i> Mathematics for Education
21-25	B in high school Pre-Calculus or Trigonometry OR C or better in high school Calculus	Elementary Statistics, Trigonometry, Business Calculus, Matrix Algebra <i>or</i> Intro to Analytical Processes
26 or Higher	A in high school Pre-Calculus or Trigonometry OR B or better in high school Calculus	Calculus I

The COMPASS math test is made up of several subtests. Students start on the algebra tests. If they answer a series of questions correctly, they will be moved up to the college algebra test. Not all students will take all the tests; it depends on how well they answer the questions.

COMPASS Results - Math Placement

Placement Subtest	Score Range	Placement Recommendation
Pre-Algebra	0-33	Foundations of Math
	34-100	Beginning Algebra <i>or</i> Applied Math
Algebra	34-56	Intermediate Algebra
	57-100	College Algebra <i>or</i> Mathematics for Education
College Algebra	0-43	College Algebra <i>or</i> Mathematics for Education
	44-100	College Algebra Mathematics for Education Elementary Statistics, Matrix Algebra, Trigonometry Business Calculus <i>or</i> Intro to Analytical Processes
Trigonometry	0-43	College Algebra Mathematics for Education Elementary Statistics, Matrix Algebra, Trigonometry Business Calculus <i>or</i> Intro to Analytical Processes
	44-100	All of the above and Calculus I

The COMPASS test can only be taken twice, after which there is an appeal process for the COMPASS placement. If a student is placed in Intermediate Algebra by the placement test, they may take the Intermediate Algebra final. If they pass the final, they will be allowed to enroll in College Algebra. Students can only take the final for the course in which they were placed by COMPASS to move to the next course in the sequence. The sequence of courses is as follows:

- Foundations of Math
- Beginning Algebra or Applied Mathematics
- Intermediate Algebra
- Mathematics for Education
- College Algebra
- Trigonometry/Elementary Statistics/Business Calculus
- Calculus I

- Calculus II
- Calculus III
- Differential Equations

Trigonometry, Elementary Statistics, and Business Calculus all carry a prerequisite of College Algebra and are considered roughly equal in terms of placement level.

Placement Testing for Reading

All students must take a reading placement test unless they have completed at least 12 credit hours of college level academic courses with a grade of C or better. Students must provide an official transcript to be exempt from the reading placement test.

During the summer sessions, students enrolled at other colleges will be allowed to enroll in any course without being required to take the reading placement exam. Students must provide transcripts at the time of enrollment. English and math courses will still require placement testing or appropriate ACT scores. Students enrolled for one credit hour or less as well as Community Services and Workforce Education courses are exempt from the above procedure.

Placement Requirements

Score	Placement in
ACT reading score of 12 or below OR COMPASS reading score of 0-54	Reading Essentials required
ACT reading score of 13-16 OR COMPASS reading score of 55-74	College Reading required
ACT reading score of 17 or higher OR COMPASS reading score of 75 or higher	No Basic Reading Course Required

Placement Testing Appeal Process (COMPASS Test)

As a first appeal, students have the opportunity to retake the placement test. The second and final appeal of placement requirements will be handled through the Dean of Instruction. Placement based on either test scores or appeal is mandatory.
